

NS-US055263

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	<b>Attn: Mail Stop Amendment</b>
Masanari KOBAYASHI et al.	:	Patent Art Unit: 3618
Serial No. 10/565,394	:	Examiner Hau Van Phan
Filed: January 23, 2006	:	<b>Confirmation No. 2050</b>
For: ENGINE EXHAUST SYSTEM FOR A VEHICLE	:	

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the attached references to the Examiner's attention and requests that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form. The cited references in this IDS were cited in the corresponding Japanese Application.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

*No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification.* However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Japanese Utility-Model Patent Publication No. 58-134618 appears to disclose an exhaust system having flexible joints 4A and 4B. This reference was cited in the Japanese Office Action being as relevant to claims 1-5 of the corresponding Japanese application.

Japanese Utility-Model Patent Publication No. 61-74620 appears to disclose an engine exhaust system having flexible joints 6 and 7 on opposite ends of the pipe 4a. This

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reference was cited in the Japanese Office Action being as relevant to claims 1-5 of the corresponding Japanese application.

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Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

/David L. Tarnoff/

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Reg. No. 32,383

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